

CLEAN WATER COUNCIL
Meeting Highlights
February 11, 2003

Location:

NJ Environmental Infrastructure Trust, Building 6 Suite 201, 3131 Princeton Pike,
Lawrenceville, NJ.

Attendees:

Pat Matarazzo, Kerry Kirk Pflugh, Pamela Goodwin, James Cosgrove, Anthony McCracken, Helen Heinrich, Lou Mason Neely, Russell Furnari, Barry Sullivan, Ferdows Ali, Amy Goldsmith, Todd Kratzer, Dan VanAbs, Barbara Rich, Pat Pittore, Robert Brabston, Joe Mattle (Water Supply Advisory Council) and Ursula Montis, Secretary.

C1 Comments and Discussion

The Comment Period for C1 Rule and the Wildlife Criteria was extended to February 17, 2003, therefore the CWC decided to comment.

Kerry Kirk Pflugh – reported that a draft letter for C1 comments was crafted by Russ Furnari as a result of a subcommittee conference call and shared e-mail comments from the CWC members pertaining to C1. This letter was brought to the Feb. 11th CWC meeting for review and to be accepted or changed, according to majority consent.

After reviewing this draft letter and after joint discussion, there were changes made to the draft. They are as follows:

- The 2nd bullet on the 1st page of the letter was changed to read “While the C1 designation process is being broadened, the Department’s current rules lack definitions of key terms within the C1 definition, and also do not have examples of exceptional ecological and water supply waters within that definition.”
- The 4th bullet on the 2nd page of the letter was changed to read “The Department has not addressed the fact that pumped storage water supply reservoirs are different from other waterbodies that have been classified as C1 and has not defined how water purveyors will address the impacts of their day to day operations vis-à-vis the new C1 classification.
- The 5th bullet on the 2nd page of the letter was shortened to read “In relation to the proposed wildlife criteria, there is evidence, based on the use of 3 “uncertainty factors”, that the resulting numeric criteria is also highly uncertain”.
- The last line of the paragraph in the center of the 2nd page was changed to read “With this in mind the CWC offers the following comments on actions the Department should take to enhance the proposed amendments and enhance its overall goal of improving water quality and the uses of New Jersey’s water resources”.
- In the second set of bullets on the 2nd page (CWC comments on actions the Department should take) the 4th bullet was changed to read “In the very near future, re-examine the state’s anti-degradation policies and define how they will be applied to protect New Jersey’s water resources and the various uses for which they are designated”.

- A sixth bullet was added to this list and reads “The Department should reconsider its use of the term “uncertainty factor” in the wildlife criteria. This term carries a sense that the results lack scientific rigor, which wasn’t the point. These factors are essentially “translation factors” and the CWC suggests that the Department use this term.”.
- In the last paragraph of the letter, the 2nd and third sentences were changed to read “The CWC also supports the need for the development of numeric standards or appropriate protocols for measuring the level of protection required to meet those various uses. However, these standards or protocols need to be developed in a manner that is technically sound and clear to the public”.

Lou Mason Neely - moved to accept changes to the draft letter for final C1 letter. It was seconded and passed.

Action item:

The final C1 comment letter (redrafted by Russ Furnari) was e-mailed to Pat Matarazzo, who signed it and then faxed it to Deb Hammond on February 13, 2003. A copy of this final letter was e-mailed to all members by Ursula.

Public Hearing Discussion:

Kerry – the subcommittee had a conference call to discuss questions, speakers and format for the Hearing. The topic will be “Reclamation and Recycling”. The date will be April 16, 2003 to be held at the Holiday Inn, at Jamesburg.. We will be able to have a room which will accommodate 100 people and there will be space for a poster session (in the hall or by the pool area). We would start at 2pm to allow time for a panel discussion. We would like to have a panel of four speakers with a moderator, possibly from Rutgers. The moderator would set the stage, introducing the subject, talk about research and current trends, then introduce the speakers. The speakers would each speak for 10-15 minutes, presenting case study examples of recycling and reclamation programs and how they were implemented, the difficulties along the way and the end result with recommendations. Questions will be invited from the audience after the speakers have presented. Suggested speakers were: Ed Clerico, Thames Water; a representative from US Filter; Peter Nese, Camp, Dresser and McGee; a representative from the golf course world; and someone from the State.

Discussion:

Pam Goodwin – spoke with US Filter. They have a range of different speakers, someone that could speak from the corporate perspective , someone from the legal level, etc.

Russ Furnari – They are a nationwide company, so they could give views on a national perspective.

Lou Neely – suggested getting videos from the speakers and play a VCR continuously in the poster session area. He would like to see it on a practical level as opposed to a corporate one.

Jim Cosgrove – Ed Clerico has dealt with a lot of issues with reuse in NJ and would speak well on the frustration of trying to accomplish reuse in NJ.

Kerry – another speaker being considered was Peter Nese from Camp, Dresser and McGee.

Pat Matarazzo – He has done a lot of work with reuse around the world, as well as in the US.

Helen – whoever is a speaker should realize the constraints in the State of New Jersey.

Kerry – The Technical Manual for Reclaimed Water for Beneficial Use is a proposal on reclamation as part of the Water Supply Plan. Joe Mattle is here today. He is the new representative from the Water Supply Advisory Council. We should decide whether we would like the Water Supply Advisory Council to be partners with us on this hearing. Joe and I were supposed to propose this at a meeting last Friday, but the meeting was canceled due to snow.

Joe Mattle – The Draft Manual on the web is a good manual, but it also has some glitches. One of the questions raised is how do we incorporate it into the NJPDE's Rule? We will be having discussions and work on this. There will be a reuse subcommittee and we expect a lot of good ideas and discussions to come out of that subcommittee. We are coordinating with all the co-chairs to put together a kick-off meeting for the month of March.

Kerry – We have to move forward with the public hearing because of the time constraint. In the meantime, Joe and I will speak to Water Supply Advisory Council about partnering with us.

Lou Neely – We need someone from the golf course to speak.

Jim Cosgrove – We are giving a seminar on golf course management in March. There will be five different speakers. One of the speakers is from Audubon International, who may have something interesting to say on reuse.

Dan VanAbs – Suggested someone from Princeton Meadows Golf Course.

Joe Mattle – We can also reach internally in the Department (DEP) to who may have case studies where there were problems with golf courses and how they handled them. Take a nationwide aspect on reuse and then bring it down to the NJ level and then come back to what your specific problems are.

Dan VanAbs – We want something that will be set up to result in recommendations by the CWC.

Russ Furnari – suggested Dennis Hart as a speaker because he has done some work in this area.

Kerry – There was some concern about the Agriculture community being represented.

Ferdows Ali – offered to look into this.

Kerry – who can we have as our academic moderator?

Jim Cosgrove – How about calling and asking Chris Obropta from Rutgers. He would know who to suggest.

Kerry – a representative from the State should be on the panel also. I have initiated a search for this person, but have not heard anything back on this.

Kerry – Can we focus on the questions for the flyer we will send out to the public. These questions were drafted by the subcommittee as a result of their conference call. They are as follows:

1. How do you feel about the use of recycled water as a solution for New Jersey Water needs?
2. For what purposes do you think recycled water should be used?
3. What are the pros and cons of recycled water use?
4. Are you aware of examples of recycled water use?
5. What public health concerns do you have about the use of reclaimed water?
6. What education is needed on the safety of using reclaimed water?

After discussion, it was decided to change the word “recyled water” in all the above questions where it appears, to “reclaimed treated wastewater”.

After additional discussion it was decided to have three speakers and a moderator; Ed Clerico, Thames Water, a representative from US Filter, a representative from a golf course and someone from the State (DEP) who would also act as the moderator. Each would speak for 15-20 minutes, starting at 2 pm and going until around 4 pm.. We would have a pause, then have questions and public testimonies.

State Update:

Kerry – FYI – I have brought a work chart on the Division of Watershed Management to be passed around to all members. This identifies the jobs that each Bureau or Office are performing. Members were asked to take a copy.

Website:

Kerry – is still waiting to hear from the Legislative Office re: our nominated and confirmed members. Until then, she will not change or modify the website until she has all the information. We have a new webmaster, who is new and is being trained.
Ferdows Ali – was not pleased with the website. He suggested using hyperlinks.

Announcements:

Ferdows Ali – announced the Agriculture Program on February 26th at the EcoComplex.
Pricilla Hayes is the contact person.

Kerry – Announced that on Fri., Feb. 14th – Stony Brook and DRBC is sponsoring a Stormwater Workshop. Laura Alex is the contact person.

Kerry – she has put in a request for someone to do a presentation on the “Big Map” for the March meeting.